

WASHINGTON – Congressmen Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Dennis Moore (D-KS) announced that their legislation, the American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act, had been signed into law by the President today. The new law, which passed the House unanimously in June, authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. The revenue gained from the new coin will help fund a new memorial near the National Mall to honor those veterans.

“We owe everything to the thousands of disabled veterans who risked all in the service of our nation,” Congressman Kirk said. “As a naval reserve officer, I am honored to join with Congressman Moore to recognize these heroes with a suitable memorial near the Capitol. The funds that the new coins will generate will allow us to appropriately thank our veterans with a lasting monument in Washington.”

“More and more of our brave men and women are returning home with injuries that will affect them for the rest of their lives,” Congressman Moore said. “While we can never fully communicate our gratitude for their service and sacrifice, this memorial is an important step. I am proud our government has stepped up to honor these heroes and their contributions to America.

The new law authorizes the creation of up to 350,000 uncirculated silver dollar coins in the year 2010. Each coin is to be sold with a \$10 surcharge and could raise as much as \$3.5 million for the project. The memorial will be the nation's first physical tribute specifically honoring America's disabled veterans.

Commanding an impressive two-acre site within full view of the U.S. Capitol, the Memorial will be located adjacent to the National Mall, and across Independence Avenue from the U.S. Botanic Garden, at Washington Avenue (Canal Street) and Second Street, SW.

Lois Pope, Co-Founder and Chairman of the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, joined Kirk and Moore in praising the passage of this legislation: “The coin bill ...enables the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to touch the lives of many individuals as we continue our mission of building the nation's first Memorial in Washington, D.C., honoring the sacrifices of the 3 million living disabled American veterans, and all those who have passed before them.”

For more information about the memorial, visit <http://www.avdln.org/> .